

You will need the following supplies to create a single polearm:

- 1 Monster Funoodle™
- 1 piece of Fire-Hardened Bamboo or Rattan (suggested 6' - 8' in length.)
- 1 piece of open cell foam (suggested 24" x 2" x 54" minimum.)
- 2 pieces of 3/4" Pipe Insulation or adequate alternative padding for length of shaft.
- 2 Racquetballs
- 3/4 yard fabric of your choice for cover.
- All-purpose Hobby Cement (or Contact Cement)
- 3' sharpened dowel (1/4" diameter)
- Craft Knife
- Scissors
- Hack Saw
- Duct Tape
- Spare Open Cell Foam and Pipe Insulation

Substitutions can be made at your discretion, but for purposes of this 'how-to', we will assume you have the above materials and are making a standard polearm with a 3' cylindrical head. This design can easily be adapted to produce poleaxes, bills, naginatas, military fork, warhammers or almost any other Amtgard equivalent of a historical or fantasy polearm. Feel free to elaborate, but always remember: SAFETY FIRST! Keep your polearms adequately padded and check often for foam degradation. Due to the physics involved, the polearm is potentially the most dangerous weapon in use in Amtgard and should be regarded as such when checking for field legality. (***note: The polearm in this how-to is designed with Wetlands weapons rules in mind. The basic rules observed are that all 'potential' striking surfaces (including the entire shaft of the polearm) must be padded at least as well as 'intended' striking surfaces and the heads of polearms must be at least 24" in length.*)

- 1) If using Bamboo, tape the ENTIRE surface of the core. When you are finished, no bamboo should be visible. This prevents any possible injuries in the eventuality that the polearm breaks during use.
- 2) ****Optional:** Pad the entirety of the shaft with pipe insulation except for 2' at the 'business' end and 18" or so at the pommel end.
- 3) Cut down the Monster Funoodle™ to about 2' in length. Keep the excess for future projects. (Fig. 1)

HOW TO MAKE A QUICK & EASY AMTGARD-LEGAL 'POLEARM'

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- 4) Hollow out a 'funnel shape' in one end of the Monster Funoodle™ with a sharp knife. It should approximately match the size of the Q-tip-like 'bulb' at the thinner end of the core. (Fig. 1)
- 5) Shave down the opposite end of the Monster Funoodle™ with a sharp knife. It should taper to a little more than the diameter of the core. (Fig. 1)
- 6) Using a sharpened dowel, aluminum rod, or extended drill bit, push a pilot hole through the center of the Monster Funoodle™. (Fig. 1)
- 7) Push the 'business' end of the core up through the bottom of the modified Monster Funoodle™. (Bottom is the end without the bowl.) This should leave the taped end of the core just about flush with the top of the bowl. Push the Monster Funoodle™ down a bit further until you have about 6" of the core protruding. You will pull the Monster Funoodle™ back up after padding the end of the core. (Fig. 1)
- 8) Tape a small piece of spare foam securely to both ends of the core. (Sugg. approx. 5" x 5" square.)
- 9) Cut a 3/8"-1/2" hole in each of the Racquetballs. Use scissors and BE CAREFUL. This can be harder to do than it sounds. You may find it easier to use an X-acto® Knife.

- 10) Push the racquetballs over the foam at the end of the core. The racquetballs should fit snugly and should 'give' a bit when pressed.
 - 11) Wrap a layer of foam around each racquetball. Tape the foam down securely. You should now have what looks like a giant Q-tip.
 - 12) Pull the Monster Funoodle™ back up until the 'business end' of the core (one end of the Q-tip) fits snugly into the 'funnel' in the Monster Funoodle™. Tape the two together securely. (Fig. 1)
 - 13) Cut two circles out of your open cell foam approximately the same diameter as the Monster Funoodle™. Tape them lightly atop the Monster Funoodle™.
 - 14) Cut a small rectangle of open cell foam about 6" x 12". Fold it in half and secure it with a small piece of tape. Tape this to the topmost circle from the previous step.
 - 15) Cut a larger circle of foam, about 12" in diameter. Tape this atop the square from the previous step. Secure this to the 'tip' of the polearm securely with a 'star' of duct tape. If you over-tape the tip, the foam will not compress enough during use and the weapon could cause injuries. This will finish the 'head' of the polearm.
- (**note: If you intend to 'slash' more than you stab with your polearm, you may wish to add an additional layer of open cell foam to the head of your polearm. This will reinforce the stabbing tip*

and make the polearm a bit more cumbersome, but a lot safer overall.)

- 16) Tape the bottom of the Monster Funoodle™ to the core.
 - 17) Wrap one layer of open cell foam around the pommel 'Q-tip'. Cap off with an additional circle of foam and tape down securely.
- (**note: Remember, the pommel of the polearm is rarely where your attention is focused so it is quite common to 'accidentally' hit someone with your pommel on the backswing. For this reason, it should get as much padding as the 'head' of the weapon, and, since it seems to be common to rest your weight upon the pommel while awaiting action, the pommel should be checked even more often for deterioration.*
- 18) Slide the cover over the top of the polearm and tape to grip. Repeat with the smaller cover on the pommel.
 - 19) Wrap grip to taste.
 - 20) Check the overall weight of the weapon and try it out on a hostile sofa, chair, or significant other to insure it is safe. Reinforce any weak areas with additional tape.
 - 21) Take your new polearm out to the park and find some unsuspecting Amtgarder to try your new weapon out on!

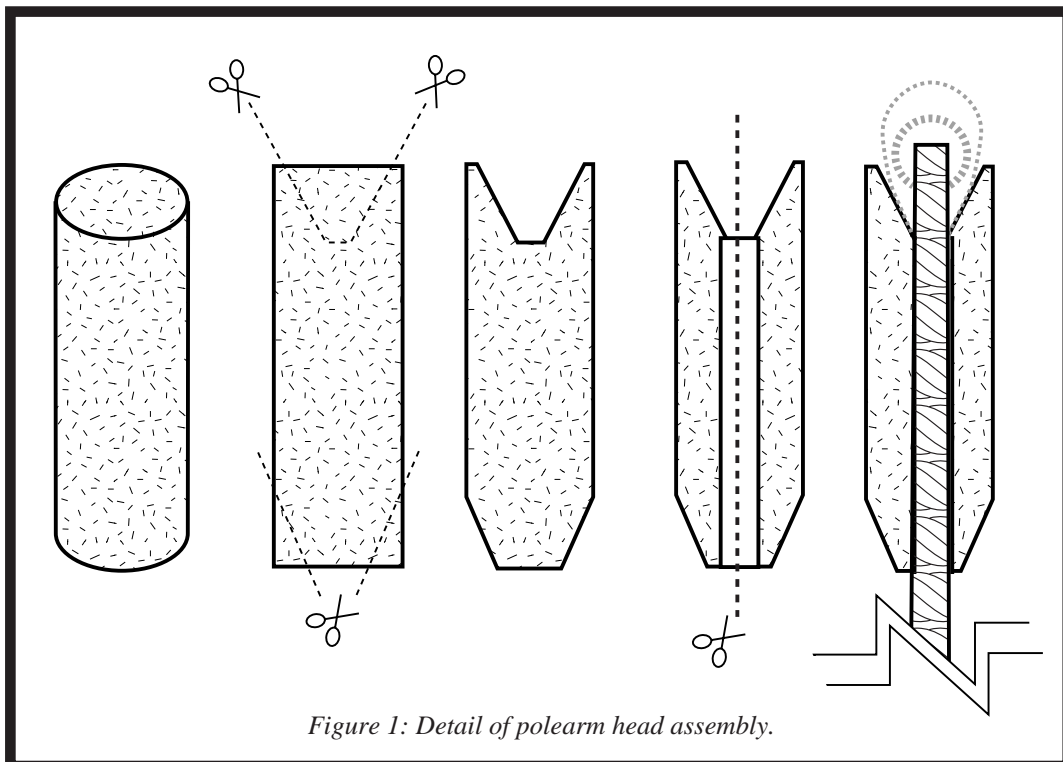
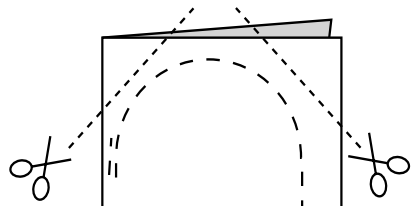
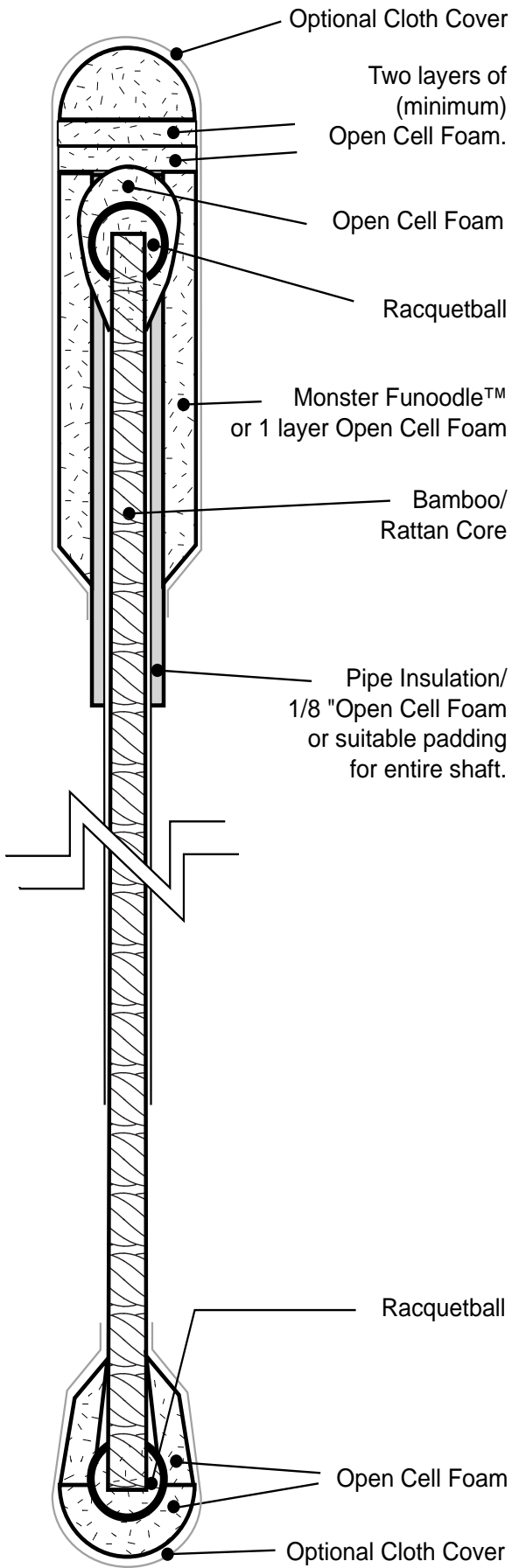
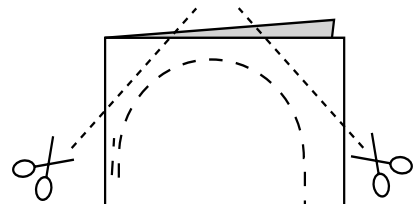


Figure 1: Detail of polearm head assembly.



Stitch approx. 3/4" to 1" from OPEN edge of fold.

22" x 29"+/- Piece of Cloth (11" x 29" folded)



Stitch approx. 3/4" to 1" from OPEN edge of fold.

22" x 14"+/- Piece of Cloth (11" x 29" folded)